

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 1 has been amended. Claim 6 has been cancelled. Claims 1, 5, 13-16, 21-23 and 27 are pending and under consideration.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 1, 5, 6, 16 and 27 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaite et al. (US 6,016,046) (hereinafter "Kaite") in view of Shirai et al. (US 5,550,452) (hereinafter "Shirai") and further in view of Park et al. (US 6,683,438) (hereinafter "Park").

Claims 13-15 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaite in view of Shirai and further in view of Park and Fernandez (US 6,184,651) (hereinafter "Fernandez").

Claims 21-23 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaite in view of Osawa et al. (US 6,764,373) (hereinafter "Osawa").

Claims 1, 5, 6, 13-16, 21-23 and 27

Amended claim 1 recites: "...the protrusion is accommodated in the protrusion accommodating part, leaving a margin in which the protrusion is movable in a direction transverse to a docking direction." Support for this amendment may be found in at least original claim 6.

The Office Action relies on Shirai to discuss this feature of claim 1. In particular, the Examiner notes that Figure 4 of Shirai shows the margin in which the protrusion is movable in a direction transverse to a docking direction. However, it is respectfully submitted that Figure 4 of Shirai shows exactly reverse and shows that the engaging projection 104, engaging hole 102, hole 100 and magnetic core 84 are closely engaged. Shirai does discuss a margin or clearance relating to the magnetic core 84. Since the magnetic core 84 can be easily broken or chipped, the size of the hole 100 is so arranged that some clearance is provided around the magnetic core 84 even after the depressible member 78 is fully depressed. See Shirai, 6:54-6:60. This clearance, which is not discernible in Figures 4 or 5 of Shirai, is between the magnetic core 84 and the hole 100. By contrast, no clearance or margin is provided between the engaging projection 104 and the engaging hole 102 of Shirai. Instead, the components of the induction

charging apparatus of Shirai are closely coupled together by the casing 24 of the device unit 18 including a projection 130, serving as a first engaging means, formed at a lower center portion, and the casing 22 of the power source unit 12 being formed with a recess or an opening 132, serving as a second engaging means, at an upper center portion. The opening 132 is slightly larger than the circumference of the projection 130. See Shirai, 7:14-7:22 and Figures 3, 5 and 6.

This technical feature of claim 1 allows that a position of the robot does not need to be precisely controlled because the battery may still be charged even if the contact terminal of the robot does not precisely contact the contact terminal of the charger.

Claim 6 has been cancelled. Claims 5, 13-16, 21-23 and 27 depend on claim 1 and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: April 18, 2007

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